AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 EXPEDITED PROCEDURE EXAMINING GROUP 1638 Application No. 09/896,720

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Application Status

Claims 1-7, 19 and 20 were pending in the subject application. All were rejected. Upon

entry of this amendment, claims 1 and 19 will have been revised and claims 2 and 20 will have

been canceled. Therefore, claims 1, 3-7, and 19 will be pending and before the examiner for

consideration.

Rejection Under 35 USC §112 Second Paragraph And Allowable Subject Matter

All of the pending claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. The

Office Action, however, indicated that claims 2 and 3 would be allowable if rewritten to not

depend from a rejected base claim. Although applicant does not agree or acquiesce in the

rejections, in order to expedite issuance of a patent, the claims presented herein have been

amended to include the limitations of previous claims 2 and 3. Accordingly, withdrawal of the

rejections and allowance of the claims presented herein is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The claims currently before the examiner are supported throughout the specification and

are patentable over the prior art. No new matter has been added. This application is now in full

condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

This amendment is believed to be timely filed. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to

charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment of fees under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 as required

by this paper to Deposit Account 50-0951.

The examiner is invited to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any matter

within this amendment, or if the examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the

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prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,

AKERMAN SENTERFITT

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